

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated December 7, 2004, claims 7, 8, 14 and 16 have been amended. Claims 1-34 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. Claim Amendments

Applicant's attorney has made amendments to the claims as indicated above. These amendments were made solely for the purpose of clarifying the language of the claims, and were not required for patentability or to distinguish the claims over the prior art.

III. Non-Art Rejections

In paragraphs (2)-(3) of the Office Action, claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action asserts that there is a lack of antecedent basis for the phrase "said plurality of functions."

Applicant's attorney respectfully traverses this rejection. The antecedent basis "a plurality of functions" can be found in the preamble of claim 17. Consequently, Applicant's attorney requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

IV. Prior Art Rejections

In paragraphs (4)-(5) of the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 9, 11, 17, 19, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wright et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,581,040 (Wright). In paragraphs (6)-(7) of the Office Action, claims 2, 4-7, 10, 12-16, 18, 20-28, and 30-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wright in view of Dialog, "BuildPoint.com Launches First Web-based Business-to-Business Solution For \$415 Billion Construction Materials Industry," (Dialog) and further in view of Edwards et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,557,780 (Edwards).

Applicant's attorney respectfully traverses these rejections. U.S. Patent No. 6,581,040 to Wright is not a prior art reference. U.S. Patent No. 6,581,040 to Wright claims a priority date of February 18, 2000, whereas the present application claims a priority date of January 28, 2000, which is the date the provisional application was filed. Moreover, the claims in the present application are entitled to the priority date of January 28, 2000, because they are supported by the provisional

application. Consequently, none of the rejections can be maintained. Thus, Applicant's attorney submits that the claims are now allowable.

V. Conclusion

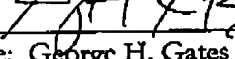
In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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